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NEW UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(to be used for new applications only)

Attorney Docket Number

First Named Inventor

JIANHUA FAN

Total Pages in this Submission

10

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

Notice: Checklist items mentioned under Application Elements section construct a new utility patent application. Please refer to MPEP Sections 506, 601, (37CFR 1.77, 1.53, 35 USC 111, 112, 113) for detailed explanation regarding completeness of an original patent application.

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (prescribed filing fee(s))
2. Specification
 - ☒ Title of the Invention
 - ☐ Cross References to Related Applications (if applicable)
 - ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development (if applicable)
 - ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix (if applicable)
 - ☒ Background of the Invention
 - ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
 - ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings (if drawings filed)
 - ☒ Detailed Description
 - ☒ Claim or Claims
 - ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☐ Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)
4. ☐ Executed Declaration
5. Genetic Sequence Submission (if applicable, all must be included)
 - ☐ Paper Copy
 - ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

6. ☐ Assignment Papers
7. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
8. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche
9. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
10. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
11. ☐ Petition Checklist and Accompanying Petition
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Proprietary Information
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
15. ☒ Small Entity Statement
16. ☐ Additional Enclosures (please identify below):

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name

JIANHUA FAN

Signature

Jianhua Fan

Date

12-08-1997

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Application Number		Class		Independent Claims	
Date of Receipt	Application Type	GAU		Total Claims	
	Filing Date	Foreign Filing License?		Drawing Sheets	
	Small Entity	Foreign Address?		Special Handling?	

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12/12/97 JC635 U.S. PTO

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**VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))—INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)

Applicant or Patentee: JIANHUA FAN

Application or Patent No.: _____

Filed or Issued: _____

Title: LEGGED POT

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
☒ the application identified above.
☒ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ No such person, concern, or organization exists.
☐ Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

JIANHUA FAN

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

Jianhua Fan
Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

12-08-1997
Date

Date

Date

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

I. Field of the invention

This invention relates to a new design of pots, "Legged Pots", for plants, flowers, or vegetable growth to reduce products cost and environmental contamination by fertilizer and pesticide. The legged pot is a valuable pot to save labor and material cost, to reduce water and fertilizer loss, and soil use. It is very useful in greenhouses, nursery fields, residential, and commercial places.

II. Description of prior pots and watering system

Traditional pots have no legs, only few holes on the bottom for draining excess water to avoid plant damage. But, the plant must be watered frequently. If tray is used to hold water, the plant can be easily damaged. In greenhouses or nursery fields, the pots are sited on the ground or on the table with no flat. As a result, fertilizer and/or pesticide drain out with the water from the pot into the ground causing environmental contamination.

In greenhouse and nursery field, watering cost is very high. Scientists use trickle irrigation system to reduce the watering cost. The system worked well to solve this

problem. However, the cost for setting up the system (both labor and material costs) is still high, and workers have to frequently check each dropper to insure it is working properly. Sometimes the water bill increases, which means more water is wasted by using this method. The problem of soil and ground water contamination by fertilizer and pesticide is still not solved. Not many producers like to use the trickle irrigation system.

Scientists also use the wick method to reduce the frequency of watering needed for small pots. The problem of over-watering is solved using this method. However, the pot's cost doubles because a support pot has to be used, and the wick has to be inserted by hand. The limitation of this method is that the wick can be used only in small pots.

Some producers use hydroponics to produce their products. This method includes sand culture, and requires a concrete construction. The cost is very high, the plants are easily damaged by water, and disease spread is very likely.

III. Summary of Invention

“Legged Pot” means there are legs under the pots(see fig. 1). The legs are filled with soil. It is so that water can be absorbed by the soil from a plastic film or tray. This way the plant will not be damaged by water, water will never be lost, and hand watering is now unnecessary in greenhouses and nursery fields.

IV. Detailed Description of the Invention

The Legged Pot, my invention, has more advantages than regular pots with the trickle irrigation system and wick method. Legged Pots with plastic film flat in greenhouses and nursery fields or with a tray in residential or commercial places are the best design for plant growth. All the problems of traditional pots with the trickle irrigation and wick method are solved when using this design of pots. No water is lost, no fertilizer or pesticide goes into the ground, and the water will never damage the plants. Material cost is very low. Less soil is used because the soil environment in the pot is improved. Almost no watering cost. Only thing needed for watering plants is just turning on the faucet in greenhouses and nursery fields. Possibility of disease spread is dramatically decreased. Watering plants once a month in residential and commerce place.

Legged pots used in greenhouses and nursery field with plastic film underneath (see Fig-4) can be watered only once a week or once another week. The sides of film are held up by wooden rods, steel wire, or even by soil to make a tray to hold water. The depth of the trays is about 3-5 inches and there is no limit on the length. A faucet can be placed on one end or midway for water irrigation.

The legs can also be applied to regular trays. It looks like a "Legged Box" (see fig. 5). Their size can be varied. The depth ranges from 4 to 7 inches. The number and length of the legs depends on the size of the box. Its functions like a flower or vegetable bed. The flat of plastic film used are the same as described in above paragraph.

The legged pots or boxes can be used in sand culture to solve the problems. The pots ,boxes, and flat of plastic film used are the same as described in above paragraph too.

V. What is Claims is:

1. Legged pots are not limited by size.
2. Legs under pots are not limited. It can be in groups of three's, four's, or more.
3. Legs also can be used on trays (Legged Boxes) and their size doesn't matter.
4. The length and diameter of legs are not limited. It depends on the size of the trays and the pots.
5. "Legs" can be used in any style of pots.
6. Legs can be made of different materials.
7. Legged pots and boxes can be used in all kinds of places.

VI. Abstract

Build legs into the pot and use them with plastic film or tray to reduce watering cost; labor and material cost; water and fertilizer lose; environmental contaminate; soil in use and to avoid plant damage by water.

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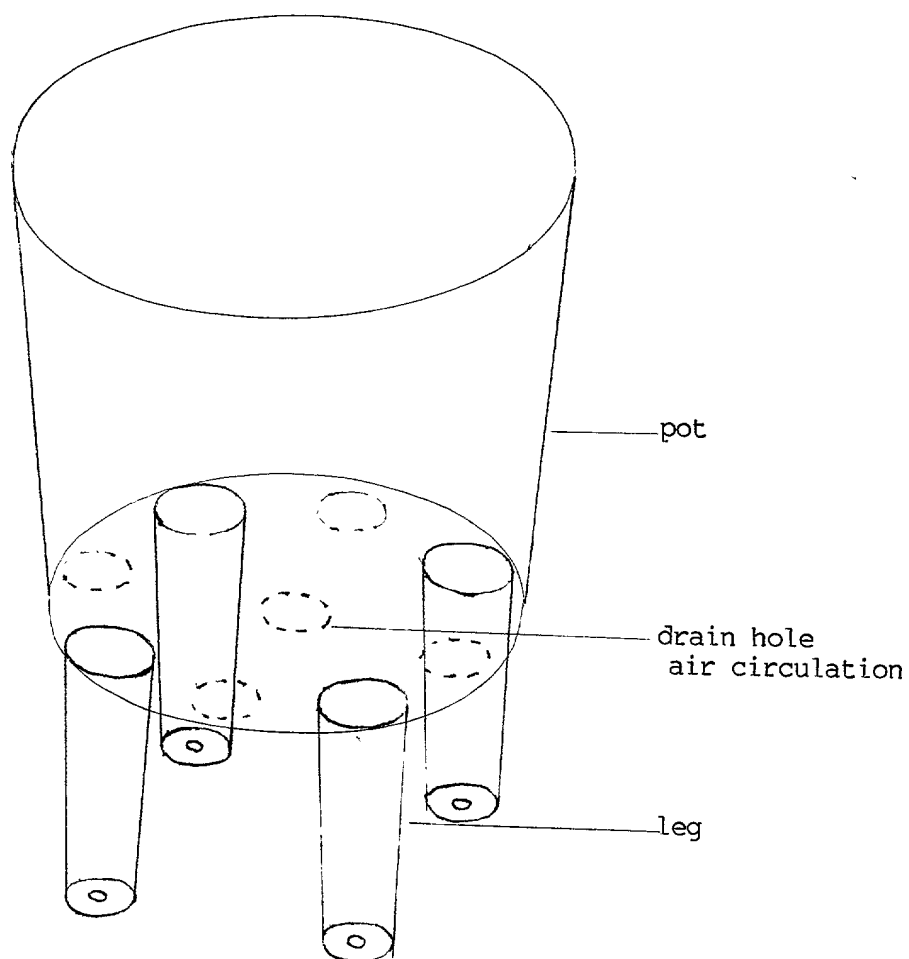


Fig-1 Legged Pot

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The diagram shows a circular cross-section of a structure with multiple layers. An outer thick ring is surrounded by a thinner layer. Inside this is a large circle containing six smaller circular features arranged in a hexagonal pattern. Each of these features is composed of a dashed outer circle and a solid inner circle with a central dot. The central area of the large circle is empty.

7

The diagram shows a rectangular tray lined with plastic film. Inside the tray, several small, round pots are arranged. Each pot is supported by two short, vertical wooden sticks. A label 'Plastic film' points to the tray's lining, 'Wood stick' points to one of the supports, and 'Pot' points to one of the round containers. A small detail on the left shows a hinge mechanism on the tray's edge.

Fig-4 Legged pot sitting on the plastic film tray

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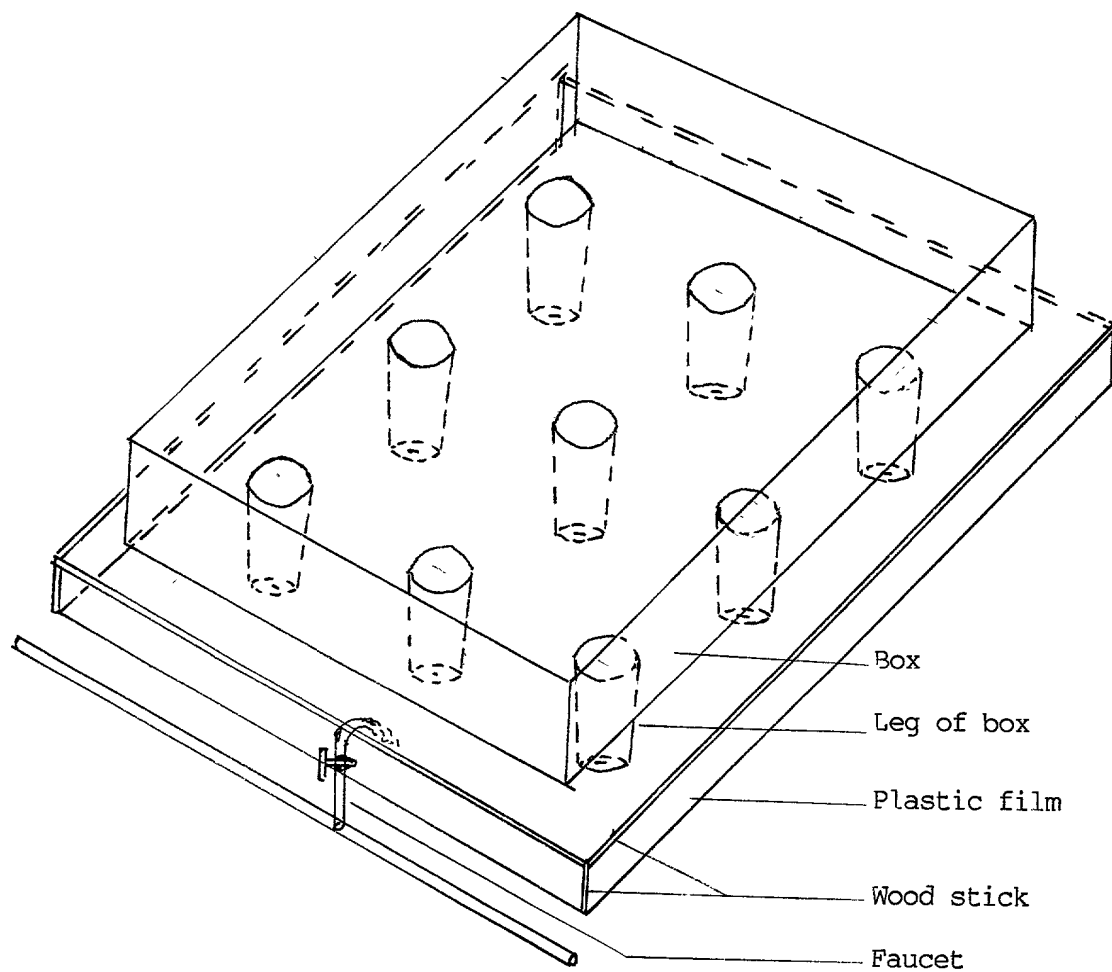


Fig-5 Legged box sitting on the plastic film tray

DESCRIPTION

Fig. 1. is a perspective view of a legged pot showing my new design;

Fig. 2. is a side view thereof;

Fig. 3. is a top view thereof;

Fig. 4. is perspective view of legged pot sitting on the plastic film tray;

Fig. 5. is a perspcetive view of legged box sitting on the plastic film tray.

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(19) UNITED STATES PATENT

(54) LEGGED POT

(75) INVENTOR: JIANHUA FAN

(57) ABSTRACT

7 claims, 5 drawings

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DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION

☒ Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing OR ☐ Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing

Attorney Docket Number

First Named Inventor

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number

Filing Date

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

LEGGED POT

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto
OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119 (a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365 (a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
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			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

☐ Customer Number

OR

☐ Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

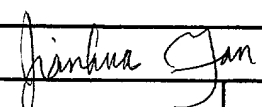
Direct all correspondence to: ☐ Customer Number OR ☒ Correspondence address below

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Country	U. S. A.	Telephone	615-356- 3211		Fax	

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle (if any))				Family Name or Surname			
JIANHUA				FAN			
Inventor's Signature						Date	12/08/97
Residence: City	NASHVILLE	State	TN	Country	U. S. A.	Citizenship	CHINA
Post Office Address	5800 MAUDINA AVE						
Post Office Address	APT. C-2						
City	NASHVILLE	State	TN	ZIP	37209	Country	U.S.A.

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto